

First Christian Church Elders' Meeting Minutes – May 2021

FCC Elders met on Friday, May 7th. Those present were David McConnell, Martin Reyes, Delaine Donaldson, Troy Bloemker, and Jon Zerkel.

Meeting was opened with prayer. Pastor McConnell to announce his upcoming retirement to the congregation at end of morning service on Sunday, May 16th. Pulpit search committee to call the next senior minister will consist of the elders, plus David in an advisory/ consultant role only.

Search committee will meet on Friday, May 14th to review the current FCC job description for senior minister, as well as the church constitution and make any necessary updates to better reflect First Christian as an elder-led, rather than a board-governed church body. Elders will also begin preparing a church budget for fiscal year 2021-22 at this meeting.

Discussion was held regarding potential candidates for new church officers.

Discussion held on when to resume contact with Neil Norheim to complete the “church health/ evaluation” survey.

Martin to begin teaching a class for new believers in June/ July. Upward Soccer camps will be held during the weeks of June 14 -18th, and June 28 – July 2nd. Chestnut Music will be in the church building on Tuesday, May 11th to install new audio equipment. Delaine suggested relocating the A/V booth to the rear of the sanctuary as soon as feasible. Martin will investigate.

Motion was made (Jon Zerkel) and seconded (Troy Bloemker) to grant one week's paid vacation to Martin during the last week of May. Motion carried 5-0.

A letter from Jane Ann Zerkel was read, requesting a reduction in her pay to \$125 monthly, due to her diminished responsibilities since we are using many recorded tracks for worship on Sunday mornings, and she often only provides music for two or two and a half weeks during the month. Following discussion, motion was made (Delaine) and seconded (Troy) to begin paying Jane Ann \$125 monthly, beginning in May 2021.

Motion was made (Jon) and seconded (Martin) to allow Fine Arts- County of Effingham the use of the church's outdoor pavilion during May & June for rehearsals for their summer theater production, if they are still in need of a space. Motion carried 6-0, (with Dennis also voting yes via a previous email.)

Delaine reported on a new K-8 Christian school being formed at Christ Church in Effingham for the 2021-22 school year; and requested that First Christian consider adding this school as one of our regularly supported missions. No further action taken at this time.

With Illinois moving into the “bridge” phase of the pandemic response on May 14th, Delaine suggested restoring a more regular church routine as soon as possible. Pew Bibles and hymnals were replaced in

the pew racks following this meeting. Sunday School and morning coffee/ fellowship will resume on Sunday, June 13th. Adult WOW and Men's fellowship group to resume in September. Delaine suggested compiling a list of church members who have not been in attendance during the pandemic and contacting them.

Discussion was held regarding having an Independence Day fellowship event at the church, since July 4th falls on a Sunday this year.

David reported on an ash tree in need of treatment at the church parsonage. Motion was made (Delaine) and seconded (Jon) to allow a tree service to do what is necessary to try and save the tree.

Meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted in service to Christ,

Jon Zerkel